SERMON-BASED STUDY: ENOUGH IS MORE

Luke 12:13-21, ESV – ¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Notes: 1. 2. 3. 4.

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- Looking at the parable of the rich fool, what is the underlining problem with the rich man's logic? How do you see this happening today?
- This week we heard about the difference between a mindset of Live-Save-Give and a mindset of Give-Save-Live. What does the Live-Save-Give mindset lead to? How have you fallen into this trap?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 Timothy 6:6-10, ESV ⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.
- What does Paul mean when he says, "godliness with contentment is great gain"?
- What are some evils that grow from the love of money? Why does money have such a strong influence on people, even to the point of "wandering from the faith"?
- Why is it difficult to remain content with what we have?
- Malachi 3:8-10, ESV ⁸ Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. ¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.
- Why is neglecting the tithe such an offense to God?
- In verse 8, Malachi uses two words, tithes and contributions (offerings). Is there a difference between tithes and offerings? Should this affect the way we give or who we give to? Explain.

TAKING IT HOME

We should give because there is a need, not so we receive something in return. We should give because it makes us more like God. So, what are the keys to being generous? Begin by making a plan, start to give, and give more as you are led. What is your next step toward being a generous giver? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you look to be generous givers.

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Deuteronomy 14:22-23 Ecclesiastes 5:10 Matthew 6:24 Luke 6:38 1 Timothy 6:17-19 Hebrews 13:5